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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,251	07/18/2003	David M. Misaras	TR000055RCEDIV	3264
32047	7590	12/29/2005	EXAMINER	
GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT & PFLEGER, PLLC 55 SOUTH COMMERICAL STREET MANCHESTER, NH 03101			LEE, GUIYOUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/622,251	Applicant(s) MISARAS, DAVID M.	
	Examiner Guiyoung Lee	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29,31,33-38 and 50-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29,31,33-38 and 50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 51-54 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim./Amdt.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 10/3/2005.
2. Claims 29, 31, 33-38, and 50-54 are pending, and claims 1-28, 30, 32, and 39-49 have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 29, 31, 33-38, and 50-54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new ground of rejection follows.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 51-54 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 51-54 depend from the cancelled claim 55, which is not a proper dependent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 29, 31, 33, 36, and 50 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platt et al. (US 5,917,165).

7. Re claims 29, 31, 33, 36, and 50: Platt discloses an panel having a light transparent cover layer (12) and a method of backlighting the panel having a front and a rear surface, an LED light source (37 in Fig. 6), an opening (26), a foam layer (24 and col. 4, line 50). Platt does not disclose a light pipe position adjacent to the LED. However, Platt teaches that a light pipe could be positioned adjacent to the LED light source (col. 6, line 66). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a light guide into the opening as Platt taught in order to guide light upwardly through the opening.

8. Claims 34-35 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platt as applied to claim 29 above, and further in view of Archer et al. (US 6,971,760 B2).

9. Re claims 34-35 and 37-38: Platt does not teach an optical fiber. Archer discloses a plurality of optical fiber (35), and a LED light source is positioned adjacent to the optical fibers. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute Platt's light pipe with Archer's optical fiber because a fiber optic transmit light from a remote light source. Platt also shows a colored filter (39 in Fig. 6).

Conclusion

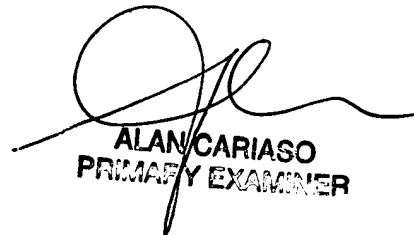
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Abu-Isa et al. (US 5,775,779) discloses an elongation, a tensile strength, and a Shore Hardness of polyurethane in TABLE II (col. 6).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY



ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER